

Like Wounded Mountain Wolf, Villa Hides From His Hunters

American Troops, on Errand of Grim Justice Chasing Peon Brigand Amid Wild Scenes of His First Lust for Blood.

BY JUNIUS W. WOOD.

WITH THE AMERICAN PUNITIVE EXPEDITION IN MEXICO, April 2 (by army motor truck of Columbus, N. M.)—Like a wounded mountain wolf at bay in its home lair, Pancho Villa, the bandit, is surrounded by American troops. The outlaw has been cornered by a third and another bullet wound in his hip. He is in the wild mountainous country northeast of Guerrero, hidden there under the floor of a friendly native hut, or lying helpless in one of the mountain caves he knows so well.

Latest reports show that all that saved the wounded bandit was that he left his troops the day before the early morning surprise by Dodd's cavalry. He is surrounded by troops. His chances of slipping between the lines and escaping farther into the solitudes of the mountains are considered small.

Pursued by Grim Justice.

That Villa should come to his end in this wild region is grim retributive justice. One of his first deeds of blood lust when he was rising to power in the revolution was to take the postmaster, judge and three prominent citizens of Guerrero to Arroyo Basculi in November, 1910, and summarily execute them near the same spot he now lies, wounded and without medical attendance, his last American surgeon having left him after Columbus. This is the condition of the once popular hero who commanded thousands and had a hospital train at his disposal. A few miles away at San Andres he married his first wife, Luz Corral de Villa, and later deserted her.

The early morning surprise of the 7th Cavalry under Col. James B. Erwin makes a page in the heroic annals of the American army. One of these columns was commanded by Col. George A. Dodd, the other two being led by Col. William C. French and Maj. Ellwood W. Evans. The latter two were colored troops of the 10th Cavalry.

Tuesday two Mexicans were captured by the cavalry scouts. They declared they were deserters from Villa's army. Pleading for mercy, they insisted that they had not willingly followed the bandit, but had been impressed into his ranks with others when he fled from Columbus. In every fight they said they had been put in the front rank, while more sincere bandits were behind with orders to shoot them down should they lag in the fighting. The brush with Carranza soldiers of the previous day they had escaped in the confusion following the wounding of the chieftain.

Put Troops on Villa's Trail.

The two prisoners gave Col. Erwin a general idea of where the Villa force were. Then the seventeen-hour ride started. All day Tuesday the cavalrymen plodded forward. To any one who has seen the towering mountains and the rough, boulder-strewn roads, little more than canyon skirting bridge paths, the ride can be appreciated. All that day they hurried forward, and the bandits were not sighted, though traces of their march—abandoned blankets, occasionally a dead horse, a spot where they had evidently camped and built fires and stores—were seen from reluctant natives—were plentiful.

As the sudden tropical darkness fell the American guides informed Col. Erwin that they were approaching the town of Guerrero. Knowing the habits of the Mexicans, the American officers were told that the Villa bivouac for the night in the town and command headquarters of the natives for shelter. Twenty miles from the town "Halt" was called for. The guides were ordered to search for the Villa force. No fires were lit, for no chance were taken on the march—abandoned blankets, occasionally a dead horse, a spot where they had evidently camped and built fires and stores—were seen from reluctant natives—were plentiful.

Resume March at Midnight.

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The bandits were sleeping off the effects of a night of feasting, the first satisfying food they had enjoyed for many days, but one vigilant outpost was awake. The 7th was a mile away when he sighted them. Spurring his horse, he dashed into the sleeping town, firing his rifle and shouting, "The gringos! They are coming! Fly! Fly for your lives!" He kept right on going and was the first to leave the town. Spurring up their tired horses, the troops entered the town almost at the heels of the terrified outpost. The bandits were rushing from the doors of every house on the little main street. Some of them fired rifles or revolvers as they ran. Others dropped everything and, throwing saddles over their horses' backs, sought safety in flight.

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The four Americans who were wounded before shots from the adobe houses after they had entered the town. The most desperate of the bandits who did not escape in the first rush and fought, firing through the windows until they were killed. In one adobe hut four of them were found. The nearest count of the total number killed was sixty.

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Other cavalry columns were rushed to surround his supposed hiding place. The others in the vicinity are: Detachment composed of two companies of the 12th Cavalry, under Maj. Frank Tompkins of the 13th Squadron of the 12th under Maj. Elmer L. Underhill of the 12th Cavalry, and the western department at San Francisco.

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W. C. A. to Meet Tomorrow.

The annual meeting of the Women's Christian Association is to be held in the parlors of the home, 1719 24th street northwest, tomorrow morning. Reports will be presented, officers elected for the ensuing year and committees appointed to look after the various interests of the organization.

NATURE WILL CURE CONSTIPATION

All who needs is a very little help. Constipation is caused by a accumulated waste in the Colon (Large Intestine), which, under our present mode of living, Nature cannot entirely remove without a little help.

The rank poisons in this waste get into the blood circulation, too, and make us feel depressed, blue, bilious and incompetent—really sick—if allowed to go a little too far. All the help that Nature asks, however, is internal bathing with Warm Water, applied by the "J. B. L. Cascade." This, in a perfectly natural and rational way, cleans out the Colon and keeps it as sweet, clean and pure by occasional use as Nature demands for a perfectly healthy condition.

So invariably successful has this new and improved internal bathing process been that over 300,000 Americans are now enthusiastically using it to cure constipation, ward off disease and keep their bright, vigorous and efficient.

The "J. B. L. Cascade" is now being shown at O'Donnell's and Adick's Drug Stores in Washington. Call and let them explain how simply it accomplishes these great results.

Also ask them for free booklet, "Why Man of Today is Only 50 Per Cent Efficient."

—Advertisement.

U. S. TROOPERS AND MOUNTS STAND UP WELL UNDER WORK

Pride in Their Horses a Passion With the Men—Even Villa's Enemies Try to Block American Pursuers.

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The bandits were sleeping off the effects of a night of feasting, the first satisfying food they had enjoyed for many days, but one vigilant outpost was awake. The 7th was a mile away when he sighted them. Spurring his horse, he dashed into the sleeping town, firing his rifle and shouting, "The gringos! They are coming! Fly! Fly for your lives!" He kept right on going and was the first to leave the town. Spurring up their tired horses, the troops entered the town almost at the heels of the terrified outpost. The bandits were rushing from the doors of every house on the little main street. Some of them fired rifles or revolvers as they ran. Others dropped everything and, throwing saddles over their horses' backs, sought safety in flight.

Hernandez Among First Killed.

A lieutenant who was in the fight and brought the only eyewitness report to Gen. Pershing said there was no organized resistance. Eliseo Hernandez, who had been left in command by Villa, was one of the first killed. The fire of the gallant troops swept the town the shots of the bandits ceased and those who had succeeded in reaching the houses were all taken as prisoners. These were pursued for five hours until they had scattered in the mountains.

The four Americans who were wounded before shots from the adobe houses after they had entered the town. The most desperate of the bandits who did not escape in the first rush and fought, firing through the windows until they were killed. In one adobe hut four of them were found. The nearest count of the total number killed was sixty.

Villa Encircled by Cavalry.

From some of the wounded further information was gleaned of the whereabouts of Villa. They corroborated the story of the two deserters that he was seriously wounded.

Other cavalry columns were rushed to surround his supposed hiding place. The others in the vicinity are: Detachment composed of two companies of the 12th Cavalry, under Maj. Frank Tompkins of the 13th Squadron of the 12th under Maj. Elmer L. Underhill of the 12th Cavalry, and the western department at San Francisco.

Squadron of twenty picked men and horses from each company of the 11th, under Maj. Robert L. Howze of the army War College at Washington, D. C.

Abandon Everything in Flight.

In their flight the Villa bandits abandoned everything except what they had on. Many did not have time to throw on their coats. Blanket rolls, sombreros, saddlebags, all the pack mules and even rifles and revolvers, some of which had been taken from American victims, were left behind. Women and even a couple of children, who had been carried along by the bandits, were the only remnants left to the troops' hands.

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